Serial No. 09/748,609

Filing Date: December 26, 2000

REMARKS

Claims 3, 6, 9-12, 16-19 and 22-23 remain pending in the present application.

Independent Claims 1 and 13 and dependent Claims 2, 4-5, 14-15 and 20-21 have been cancelled. Dependent Claims 16 and 18 have been amended to depend from Claim 3. New dependent Claims 22 and 23 are the same as cancelled dependent Claims 2 and 14, respectively, except Claim 22 depends from Claim 3 and Claim 23 depends from Claim 19.

Claims 3, 6, 9-12 and 19 have been allowed. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 13-18, 20 and 21 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,635,871 to Cavigelli and Applicant's prior art Fig. 1. These rejections are most in view of the claim amendments included herewith.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course. Should the Examiner deem a telephone conference to be beneficial in expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Sanders N. Hillis

Attorney Reg. No. 45,712

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE One Indiana Square, Suite 1600 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2033 Telephone: (317) 636-0886

Fax: (317) 634-6701